

**In the Claims**

Please amend claims 41 and 44.

Per 37 C.F.R. §1.121, the current status of all the claims in the present application is presented below, amended claims are notated to indicated changes made and the text of pending claims not being amended are presented clean. Amendments to the following are indicated by underlining what has been added and striking-through what has been deleted.

Claims 1-33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (previously presented): An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

a transcription promoter;

a DNA segment encoding a polypeptide wherein the encoded polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 31-346 of SEQ ID NO:2; and

a transcription terminator.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The expression vector of claim 34 wherein the polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 1-346 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The expression vector of claim 34 wherein the DNA segment comprises nucleotides 137-1084 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The expression vector of claim 34 wherein the DNA segment further encodes a polypeptide covalently linked amino terminally or carboxy terminally to an affinity tag.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The expression vector of claim 34 wherein the DNA segment further encodes a secretory signal sequence operably linked to the polypeptide.

Claim 39 (previously presented w): The expression vector of claim 38 wherein the secretory signal sequence comprises residues 1-28 or 1-30 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 40 (previously presented): A cultured cell into which has been introduced an expression vector according to claim 34, wherein the cell expresses the polypeptide encoded by the DNA segment.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The cultured cell of claim 40 wherein the cell is ~~E. coli~~ Escherichia coli.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The cultured cell of claim 40 wherein the cell is Chinese hamster ovary.

Claim 43 (previously presented): A method of producing a polypeptide comprising:

culturing a cell into which has been introduced an expression vector according to claim 34, wherein the cell expresses the polypeptide encoded by the DNA segment; and

recovering the expressed polypeptide.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The method of claim 43 wherein the cell is ~~E. coli~~ Escherichia coli.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The method of claim 43 wherein the cell is Chinese hamster ovary.

Claim 46 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide wherein the encoded polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 31-346 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the encoded polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 1-346 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the polynucleotide is DNA.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the polynucleotide comprises nucleotides 137-1084 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 50 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 137-1084 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 51 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide encoding a fusion protein wherein the encoded fusion protein comprises a first portion and a second portion joined by a peptide bond, wherein the first portion is a polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 31-346 of SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein the second portion comprises another polypeptide.